PRESIDENT : The only way in which it can be done is by the revival of the village unions or the village panchayats. In the old days, the village union or the village panchayat or a group of villages took up the work—both of construction of minor irrigation works and of maintenance. That system has broken down. It will be found in course of time that very little work can be done in the State unless the village system is resuscitated. Until then there will be great difficulty of the kind pointed out by the honourable member.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : What I pray for is that the Government will be pleased to formulate a scheme by which at least the village unions will be revived throughout the country.

PRESIDENT : I am going to say something about them shortly.

Poikai Reservoir scheme.

351 ***MR. S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI** (*Thovala* cum *Agastiswaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Chief Engineer has visited the site of the Poikai reservoir scheme near Aramboly in the Thovala taluk ;

(*b*) whether he has submitted any report on the same ;

(*c*) what is the extent of the benefit and which are the areas that will be benefited by it and in what manner ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have considered and taken any action on the scheme ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) No. The requisite data for a report are being collected.

(*d*) Will be considered when the report is received.

Pozhi in the Kayamkulam backwater.

352 ***MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU :** May I know from the Government whether they have taken notice of the fact that the pozhi (പൊഴി) in the Kayamkulam backwater has remained closed and that it is holding up the cultivation of the mundakan lands (saline paddy fields)?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : Yes. Timely action is being taken whenever required.

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